

# FRIANT WATER USERS AUTHORITY

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## AUTHORITY OFFICERS

*Chairman*  
Kole M. Upton

*Vice Chairman*  
Harvey A. Bailey

*Secretary-Treasurer*  
Marvin L. Hughes

*General Manager*  
Richard M. Moss

*Attorney*  
Gary W. Sawyers

October 5, 1998

Mr. Roger Patterson  
Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825

## MEMBER AGENCIES

Alpaugh Irrigation District  
Arvin-Edison Water Storage District  
Atwell Island Water District  
Chowchilla Water District  
Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District  
Exeter Irrigation District  
Fresno Irrigation District  
Hills Valley Irrigation District  
Kernhoe Irrigation District  
Kern-Tulare Water District  
Lindmore Irrigation District  
Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District  
Lower Tule River Irrigation District  
Madera Irrigation District  
Orange Cove Irrigation District  
Pixley Irrigation District  
Porterville Irrigation District  
Rag Gulch Water District  
Saucelito Irrigation District  
Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District  
Southern San Joaquin Municipal  
Utility District  
Stone Corral Irrigation District  
Tea Pot Dome Water District  
Terra Bella Irrigation District  
Tulare Irrigation District

Re: Proposed Madera Ranch Groundwater Banking Project

Dear Roger:

At the September 24, 1998 meeting of the Friant Water Users Authority Board of Directors, action was taken to oppose the acquisition of lands in Madera County, by or in conjunction with any federal or state agency, which may ultimately be used for groundwater banking.

This position of opposition may be removed if the proposed groundwater banking project can demonstrate through feasibility studies and other assurance mechanisms that the project (1) has direct benefits in excess of adverse impacts to landowners in Madera County, California, and will mitigate all of its potential adverse impacts to those landowners, and (2) the project will be able to provide assurances that water supplies available to the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project and the water rights associated with these Friant Division water supplies will not be adversely impacted by the project, as those water supplies and water rights exist now or as they may be exercised in the future.

To clarify, the Friant Water Users Authority is not opposed to the further study or analysis of this project or any other groundwater or surface storage project to benefit the region or the state. We have become increasingly concerned that the Madera Ranch Groundwater Banking Project was moving ahead without adequately addressing local landowner and district concerns about groundwater impacts or our often stated concerns about the potential for adversely impacting Friant Division water supplies. Thus, we

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Re: Proposed Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank Project  
October 5, 1998  
Page 2 of 2

felt compelled to oppose the purchase of property for the project until these concerns had been addressed to our collective satisfaction.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Richard M. Moss  
General Manager

cc: U.S. Congressman Cal Dooley  
U.S. Congressman George Radanovich  
California Governor Pete Wilson  
California Senator Jim Costa  
California Senator Dick Monteith  
California Assemblyman George House  
California Assemblyman Robert Prenter  
Michael Jackson, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Fresno  
Madera County Board of Supervisors  
Merced County Board of Supervisors  
Merced Irrigation District  
Ken Robbins, Attorney, Merced Irrigation District  
John Mills, Regional Council of Rural Counties  
San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Jason Peltier, CVPWA  
FWUA Member Districts